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# NEWSLETTER

**Central Arizona Model Railroad Club**  
**January - March, 2020**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Dan LePage

Well, 2019 is ending and new changes are going to happen in the club next year. We have a new president and board members. Christmas was good and I have a new great granddaughter, Juniper, my late sons' younger daughters' child. That made a great Christmas gift

Since we did not have any Christmas train show at the Resort, I ran with the N scale group, Point of Rocks, at the Mall and it was fantastic. My N scale UP 844 ran great and it was a ball. A few other members from the club ran there too. Remember folks there are all scales of trains from Z to 1:1 scale. Be inclusive when it comes to trains.

I know we are going to have a great year. Let's run trains and do it all together. Be open to other's likes - it will go a long way.

I am looking for a way to start a kids club and demonstrate model trains, all scales, to them. I remember when I started in trains (1950) my mentor, Jim, told me "Young boys would not be interested in trains as they had fast cars and girls." I hear that today; it does not hold water for me. Since the use of command control and YouTube, the younger generation is getting back into trains. Remember how much money is spent on computer games. What is interesting is the young ladies I went with love the trains and doing the detail work on them.

## **SCHEDULE**

*CAMRRC regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. They feature tables where you are welcome to bring items for sale and most months also feature a program. They are also a great way to get together with your fellow members. Meetings begin at 6:30pm for socializing and swapping and the meeting at 7pm located at the Prescott First Lutheran Church, 231 W. Smoketree Lane off Willow Creek Road*

**January 8** - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church

**January 18** - Desert Division auction, Phoenix. Info and catalog: [tcadd.org](http://tcadd.org)

**February 12** - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church

**February 22** - Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Cactus all gauge swap meet, North Phoenix Baptist Church - flyer in this issue

**March 10** - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church (note day change)

**April 8** - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church (note day change)

## **SAVING MONEY ON MODEL RAILROAD SUPPLIES**

by Anthony Piscitelli

(Note: This article ran a while ago, but Anthony thought it might be relevant to our many new members and as reminders to all - Ed)

When the Hobby Bench closed, I had to find another source for model railroad

supplies such as oil, grease, adhesives, and paint. After doing some research and product testing, I found suitable replacement products available locally at True-Value, Ace, Walmart, Hobby Lobby, Valley Hobby, and Home Depot.

### 1. Oil and Grease:

Proper lubrication is very important for a model railroad locomotive, without it, parts will wear out very quickly. I have seen the gears in brass locomotive gearboxes completely worn out due to lack of lubrication. A penny's worth of grease will save a \$40 gearbox.

Grease changes with time, some types of grease used by model manufacturers turn hard and waxy as they get old. The grease that AHM/Rivarossi used turns into bubble gum when it gets old, and it is a real mess to clean out. So it is important that you check the grease in your model locomotive gearboxes on a regular basis, especially if the model has sat for a long time without running.

I found a product called Super Lube, it is a light synthetic, plastic compatible grease. It works great in all gearboxes and axle lube for kit engines like Mantua, MDC, and Bowser. You can find Super Lube at True-Value and Ace, it comes in a 3oz tube and is \$5.50. Compare that to LaBelle 106 grease which costs \$5.50 for a 1/2oz tube.

For lubricating oil, I found a product called Zoom Spout Oilier, it is a light, plastic compatible oil, and it works great for oiling brass locomotive driver bearings, diesel engine truck bearings in Athearn, Atlas, Proto, and other plastic models. I also use it to oil motor bearings. You can find this product at Walmart,

Home Depot, Ace, and True Value in the evaporative cooler parts section. It comes in a 4oz bottle and costs about \$3.00, as compared to LaBelle 104 oil which is about \$3.50 for a 1oz bottle.

### 2. Adhesives

I used to buy the small 1/2oz bottle of Jet brand of ACC glue, I don't remember the exact cost, but I know it was over \$3.00. This product worked fine, but it would thicken to the consistency of syrup before I could use half the bottle up. I found that the brand Super Glue AC worked just as good as Jet, and you can buy two small tubes at any of the dollar stores for \$1.00, and with a smaller quantity, it won't go bad before you use it up. Note: AC adhesives will last longer if kept in the refrigerator.

For those of you that use Walthers Goo, which is a contact cement, I found a replacement product called Dap Weldwood Contact Cement. It comes in a 2oz or a 4oz bottle, there is an applicator brush attached to the cap. I found this product to have a stronger bond than Walthers Goo, and both sizes are cheaper than Walthers Goo. You can find it at Home Depot, True-Value, or Ace Hardware...

### 3. Paint

I have been using acrylic paints for a several years now, I have been using Polyscale, Model Flex, and Accuflex brands. Acrylic paints work very well in an airbrush, they dry quickly and are less toxic than solvent based paints.

The cost of paint, especially Polyscale has risen dramatically in the past 3 years. A 1oz bottle of paint that used to cost \$3.50 is now \$5.50, so I

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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started looking for a substitute that would work as well as Polyscale, but cost less. I found two products that work pretty good. An acrylic craft paint called Ceramcoat made by Delta Coatings works pretty good, it comes in hundreds of colors, the colors are compatible with each other, so they can be mixed. Most modelers use this paint for scenery, when diluted with water; it makes an excellent wash. I found that using a mixture of 75% paint and 25% water will work very well in an airbrush. Cermacoat comes in 2oz bottles and costs about \$2.00. You can get this paint at Jo-Anne's, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, or Walmart.

Update: Both Floquil and Polyscale paints have been discontinued by Testors. Hobby Lobby has a very large selection of acrylic craft paints. Valley Hobby in Prescott Valley has a good selection of Tamyia paint. Hobby Lobby has a good selection of balsa wood, and bass wood which is great for scratch building.

Update: I found that Ace's high temperature black spray paint for BBQ's gives a nice weathered black flat finish. I found another paint product that also works very well when sprayed in an airbrush. I stopped at the Sherwin Williams paint store on Miller Valley Road and asked about an acrylic paint that could be thinned enough to be used in an airbrush and had a gloss finish. They recommended I try an acrylic latex enamel paint, so I bought a quart of gloss black, the cost was around \$8.00. After some experimenting, I found that a mixture of 70% paint and 30% water achieved a good consistency for airbrushing. I tried spraying an old tarnished brass locomotive boiler, the paint went on very well with no runs, and dried to a very hard gloss finish in about 20 minutes. The nice thing about using paint with a gloss finish is that the model is ready for decals, there is no need to apply an additional coat of clear gloss for the decals.

I hope you found this information helpful, if you have any questions, please ask.

## **SOME CLUB LOOK-BACKS**

Here are some shots our folks have sent in to remind us of a few of the activities during 2019

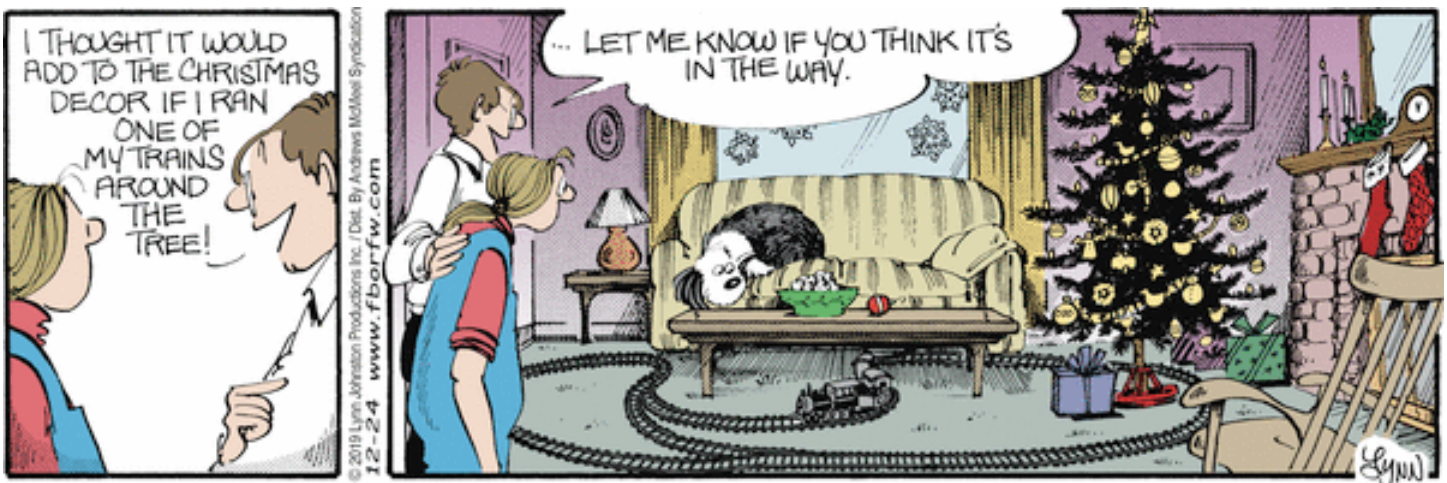
From Dick Gage:







**Chicago does it right!**



A photo from Dan LePage



## **A MINI CHRISTMAS TRAIN STORY**

by Don Schiller

Once upon a time in a distant land there was a train enthusiast named Don who sold his 2,400 sq. ft. house in Timberridge, AZ and moved to a 1,153 sq. ft. home in a brand new place called Touchmark at the Ranch, Prescott, AZ.

In Timberridge, enthusiast Don had a nice outdoor G Scale railroad and also one in his garage along with an N-gauge and an HO gauge railroad. Since there was no space in his new home, he arranged for the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club members to select their choices from his railroad collection and move it to their homes.

Over past years enthusiast Don had G-scale and even some N-scale trains always running



around the Christmas tree. Downsizing left minimal room in the new Touchmark home for a train display. Aha, then there was the CAMRRC Swap Meet. One of the nice vendors has an excellent Bachman Spectrum Stationmaster complete train set. The vendor wanted the Stationmaster set to move from his crowded sales table to be adopted to a caring home where it could be enjoyed. Enthusiast Don gave him some green folding paper with president's photos and headed back up the hill to his new home.

Now, enthusiast Don's mini Christmas train is running around in merry circles and Don & Annette are enjoying a railroading Christmas.



## THE GRANDKIDS

by Joyce Nelson

Mike's son, Cory, and the grandkid's train set. Mike gave them this set when Sonny was a baby, like seven years ago. Comes out to be played with each year.



## RAY STROM

John DeCresenzo and Ray Strom along with Rod Stewart, also of Sedona Railroaders, worked a Holiday Show in the Village of Oak Creek in December. The Christmas Theme O layout consists of

early post-war Lionel engines, repaired by Peter, four ovals to accommodate a 20 car Christmas Train, John's up-to-date modern Scale O sets, two traditional O27 sets, a trolley and a handcar loop for children to "touch" and run.



## BONNIE AND STEVE RUDY

The Rudy's decorate both their home and their Bradshaw Mountain layout at the Gateway Mall for Christmas.







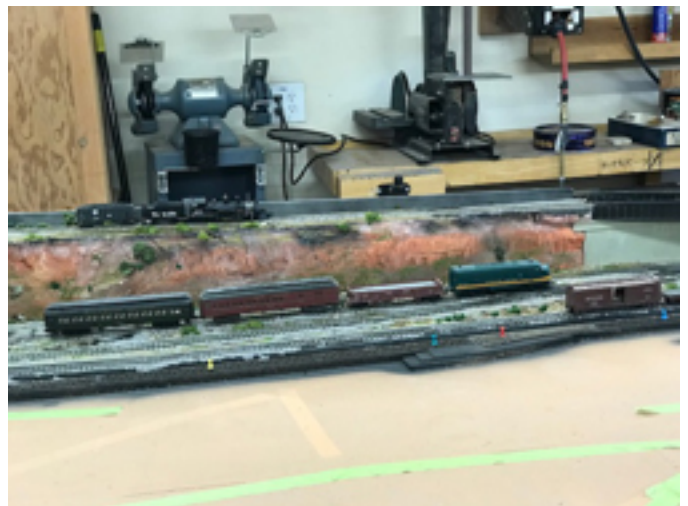
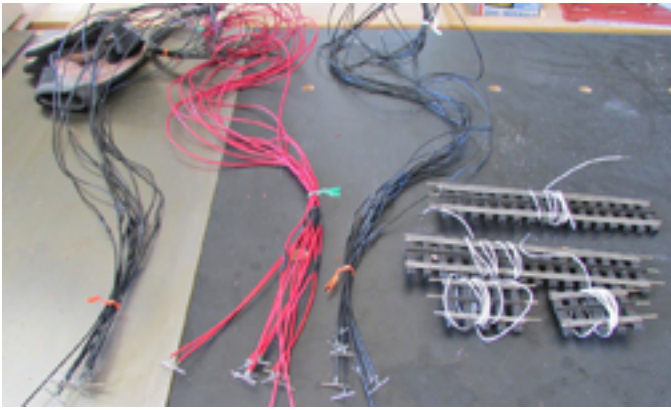
## LAYOUT PROGRESS

Here are some shots of our member's progress on their layouts during this year.

### JOE FAUTY







## JOE AGOSTA

Of the scenic work completed, the passenger station is scratch built from wood and brass with windows doors and brackets from Grant Line.

The Virginian, they never had passenger service. They purchased the station from the White Oak Railway in 1922 and used the facility until its closure in 1983.

Most all of the grades and trestle work on the narrow gauge are hand laid except for one small section.

Finally, some of the catenary is up and running. This has been an on going learning curve but it's coming along.

In one photo, you'll see the E33 going under an overpass and it is at this point the wire changes to tunnel catenary.



The green tape in the center is just some ideas I have for the narrow gauge serving a town and industries.



## KEN HOYLE

Larry Gauthier, his wife Sandy, my wife Barbara and I travelled together to the McCormick RR



Park in Scottsdale on Sunday, December 22nd to watch Mark Ziven run two of his passenger trains on the high-rail layout there. Mark gave us an "inside the layout" tour so we could enjoy everything up close and personal. This was the first time Barbara and I visited the park and were amazed at how large and wonderful the layouts were that are on display there. If any of our members haven't been to the McCormick RR Park, it is really worth the trip.



The immense layout room has separate layouts for "G" (overhead), High-Rail O, N, HO with some HOn3 and dual gauged track and Z.

The park also has a museum, full-sized passenger cars to walk through, a carousel and outdoor scale trains to ride, including a 15 inch gauge 2-8-0 live steam locomotive similar to the type used by the RGS and Denver and Rio Grande railroads.







There is a great sign posted at the layout display that read, "It is never too late to have a happy childhood!" So true.

## DID YOU SEE THEM AT THE MALL?

Photos by Dan LePage

Our friends at the Point of Rocks N gauge group have been displaying their modular layout as part of the Christmas store at Gateway Mall. Here are some shots Dan took of this year's setup.



## BIG BOY TIMES

*A highlight of 2019 was the restoration and running of Union Pacific's Big Boy steamer. Fortunately for we in Arizona, it took a trip through our state on the historic Southern Pacific's Sunset route through Tucson. Some of our members got to see it here and around the country during its tour. Here they shared some of their photos with you. - Ed.*

### Tony Jackson

My Dad Marty and I took the 5 hour drive from Prescott to Barstow, CA to see the Union Pacific Big Boy. It was an amazing experience to see how big the engine was and to have my dad there with me was also great. I thank him for driving the five hours out there. Also to hear the whistle for the first time. There are no words to describe it. A special Thanks to Ed Dickens and his crew for an amazing job restoring the Big Boy 4014 for the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike.





Dick Gage







## SOUTH END OPEN HOUSES

In the fall, traditionally CAMRRC members open their homes and layouts to share with other members and their families. This year, seven members hosted open houses. Here are some photos taken by visitors.

### Fred Williams at Mike Scigliano's





Peter Atonna at Mike's



Peter at Tom McColloch's





## REPORT FROM GREG PICARD

Greg's note doesn't quite fit into earlier sections, but we thought it is important to let you know that a high quality layout is being added to our area! - Ed

I'm still trying to put the sections together and repair everything after moving to Prescott.



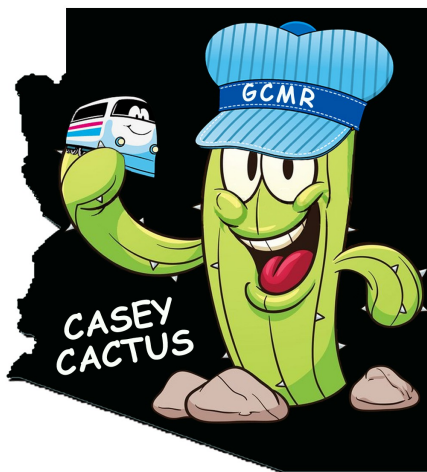


# “ONE OF ARIZONA’S LARGEST MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS” CACTUS WINTER TRAIN SWAP

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020**

**FROM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Large Farmers Market at the same time!



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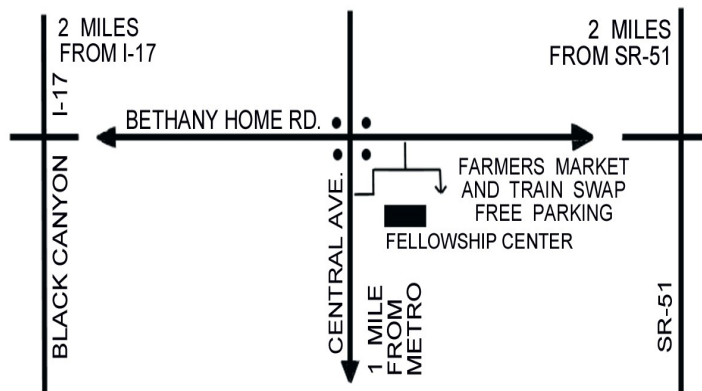
**GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS**

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**Join Our Fun Friday Pre-meet Denny's Dinner !**

Saturday set-up opens at 6:00 AM

**NOTE:** unclaimed tables will be released at 8:00 AM



Name _____		<b>\$25 per 8' banquet table</b> (Bring a table cover, if desired) How many tables? _____ Amount enclosed? \$ _____ Request? _____ Will you participate in the auction? Seller? _____ Buyer? _____
Address _____		
City _____	State _____ Zip _____	
Phone _____	Email _____	
<b>Security:</b> I will abide with badge identification entrance requirements. <b>Buying, selling, ethics and behavior:</b> In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. <b>I will not pack until 1:00 PM.</b> Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.		
Signature _____ Date _____		<b>Admission Name Badges</b> <b>1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max.</b> <small>First and last name please</small> Badge Name _____ Badge Name _____ <b>3 or more tables = 4 badges max.</b> Badge Name _____ Badge Name _____ <b>More badges available at \$5.00 each</b> Name Badges REQUIRED for your security <b>GROUPS, CLUBS: PLEASE CALL</b>
Make check payable to: <b>"Grand Canyon Model Railroaders"</b> Mail to: John Draftz, 1507 W Willow Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029 or Credit cards accepted via PayPal - visit <a href="http://www.gcmrr.org">www.gcmrr.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@gcmrr.org">info@gcmrr.org</a> Info: John Draftz 602-942-3457; Glenn Saber 602-956-6695		